

Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2016

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 217

Board Attendees: Chris Bennett, Michael Esernia, Brian Clifford, Jennifer Strassfeld, John Minze, Sarah Needham

Non-board attendee: Marc Blanchard

Not in attendance: Brian Steckroth

1. Park Planning 2016/2017
 - a. Leisure Services will be asking for a capital plan for parks improvements. They hope to use professionals at town hall. 5 phases: assessment, community outreach/research, plan development, priority setting/decision making, implementation.
 - b. Concerns were raised about community outreach being more than surveys, live meetings that facilitate discussions are important. Concern was noted by Marc.
2. Construction Updates
 - a. Beachland pool – Hopeful that pool will be open this summer. Roadway is completed.
 - b. Westmoor Park – Barn restoration is 90% complete
 - c. Rockledge – Approved for special use, adding storage for restaurant, fixing deck.
 - d. Cornerstone - Entryway is complete.
3. Little League Proposal for Lights at UConn complex
 - a. The LL would be funding the project. Joint special use permit would be filed. Letter to be mailed to abutters and expanded abutters list. Meeting in next couple of weeks (info meeting for neighborhood). Inland wetland hearing then planning and zoning public hearing.
4. Change to Swimming Passes
 - a. Used to only open two pools at night. This summer there will be 3 pools open every night and Eisenhower open 3 nights.
 - b. Additional hour of swimming on Saturdays. All four pools open until 6, instead of 5.
 - c. Lap swim hours expanded and age minimum lowered from 18 to 15.
 - d. Parent toddler time expanded.
 - e. Family swim passes
 - i. Last summer - Daily fee, resident, non-resident, punch card, season pass.
 - ii. 88 season passes sold last year. Lots of issues with fraud, confrontations, etc.
 - iii. Hoping to eliminate the season tickets but add a larger punch card at a lower price point. Sold only to residents, can be used by anyone.
 - iv. Motion to support the punch card program made by Brian Clifford and seconded by Jennifer Strassfeld. All members in favor.
5. Feast on the Farm
 - a. September 30, 2016, Friday night. Very successful event, raises a lot of money.
 - b. This is a trend now, groups have fundraising power and are able to get what they want.
 - c. Potential to have a second event on Saturday since tent is up, tables and chairs are there. Family Feast on the Farm or something similar.

6. Review of Board Positions
 - a. Several open board positions, in every political category.
7. Reminder
 - a. Celebrate is June 4/5th.